

# Statement on Reproductive Rights

Queer McGill unequivocally stands for reproductive choice and upholds people's right to self-determination and agency regarding their own bodies, including the right to make their own reproductive choices without barriers.

QM denounces legal, social, and financial roadblocks to abortion and reproductive healthcare *that disproportionately target BIPOC communities\**. Preventing access to medical care endangers people's lives and health.

QM denounces the extremely vague exceptions to abortion bans, which require people to prove sexual assault or incest: actively harming survivors and forcing them to relive trauma.

QM finds that investigations into miscarriages will further traumatise patients going through unimaginable situations.

QM is deeply troubled by the denigration of the right to privacy (a key finding in the Roe v Wade case.) The court's reversal of Roe v Wade will lead to the re-examination of the decriminalisation of homosexuality, contraceptives and the legalisation of same sex relationships - and further US legislative attacks on trans bodies. QM recognises that the groundwork for the reversal of these decisions was specifically spelled out in the court's opinion.

While the landscape is not as contentious in so called Canada, Queer McGill recognises that much more must be done. Access to abortion and reproductive choice is a fundamental human right, which too often becomes impossible for people not living in big cities or in precarious socio-economic or immigration status.

Conservative plans to ban sex-selective abortions are a red-herring. Providers would be unable to assert that an abortion was not sex-selective, and will avoid performing abortions altogether.

The unwillingness of Conservatives to clearly spell out they believe in the right to choice and self-determination reminds us that abortion is still unsettled in so called Canada.

Abortion should be enshrined as a right in so called Canada. Access to abortion should be further developed to make sure vulnerable patients can access appropriate care no matter their race, ethnicity, gender identity or expression, socio-economic status, financial ability, or migration status.

Indigenous women have been targeted for sterilisation that lasted until the 1970s, the body of Indigenous women was used as a tool for control and colonisation. Queer McGill acknowledges that sterilisation without informed consent, and denial of medical care, still occurs today. We must acknowledge the sexual and reproductive violence linked to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Reproductive rights and agency is a privilege that is denied and denigrated to indigenous women, girls, LGBTQ2IA, and (QT)BIPOC peoples.

**Queer McGill call on a decolonisation of reproductive justice in so called “Canada”; An increase in the accessibility of abortion, and reproductive choice, taking into account of interweaving systems of oppression; And the enshrinement of agency and abortion as a fundamental human right.**

## Abortion in Quebec

- Abortion in Canada is not an enumerated right, but remains legally barrier free. Financial and equal access to services barriers still exist
  - Abortion is safe and legal, and is easier to access within the first trimester
  - Access is still possible within the 2nd trimester, past 23 weeks compelling reasons might be required by a provider
  - You can get appointments within 2 weeks by calling 514 380 8299
- In Quebec: women\* seeking abortions can go to some CISSS / CLSCs, community / women health services or private clinics.
  - Abortion is covered under the RAMQ.
  - If you aren't covered under the Quebec National Insurance Plan: you may be covered by your home province, or private insurance

- Access to clinics is protected by law:
  - It is an offence to demonstrate within 50 meters of any abortion provider
  - It is an offence to attempt to dissuade a person from entering a clinic (sidewalk-counselling)
  - **Anyone over the age of 14 can access an abortion without their parents permission or knowledge**
  - **Those under the age of 18 do not need a health card if their parent is unaware they are seeking medical treatment**
- Local CLSCs can orient you in the right direction and help you make an informed decision: <https://sante.gouv.qc.ca/en/repertoire-ressources/clsc/>
- If you speak French: SOS Grossesse's helpline can guide you: 1-877-662-9666 (9AM-9PM 7 days a week)

## Abortion in Canada

- *Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights* is Canada's Planned Parenthood: [actioncanadashr.org](http://actioncanadashr.org)
  - You can call or text 1-888-642-2725 to discuss sexual health, pregnancy options, abortion and safer-sex
- Abortion services differ based on your physical location, health coverage, gestational stage.
- Crisis Pregnancy Centres **are not** abortion providers, their main goal is to talk people out of abortions, obfuscate the process, or provide inaccurate information to delay abortion until it is no longer possible

## ACCESS AT A GLANCE: ABORTION SERVICES IN CANADA

|   | AB                     | BC         | MB   | NB   | NL   | NT   | NS   | PE   | NU         | ON                     | QC   | SK         | YT         |
|---|------------------------|------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------------|------------------------|------|------------|------------|
| TOTAL PROVIDERS                         | 5                      | 24         | 4    | 5    | 4    | 1    | 11   | 1    | 2          | 38                     | 49   | 3          | 1          |
| MEDICAL ABORTION PROVIDERS              | 3                      | 17         | 3    | 3    | 1    | 1    | 9    | 1    | 2          | 22                     | 21   | 2          | 1          |
| SURGICAL ABORTION PROVIDERS             | 4                      | 18         | 4    | 4    | 2    | 1    | 4    | 1    | 2          | 31                     | 44   | 3          | 1          |
| RURAL PROVIDERS                         | 0                      | 1          | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 9    | 0    | 1          | 4                      | 6    | 0          | 0          |
| URBAN PROVIDERS                         | 5                      | 23         | 4    | 5    | 3    | 1    | 2    | 1    | 1          | 34                     | 43   | 3          | 1          |
| HOSPITALS PROVIDING ABORTION CARE       | 2                      | 10         | 3    | 3    | 2    | 1    | 4    | 1    | 1          | 20                     | 18   | 2          | 0          |
| CLINICS PROVIDING ABORTION CARE         | 3                      | 14         | 1    | 2    | 1    | 0    | 7    | 0    | 1          | 18                     | 31   | 1          | 1          |
| SAFE ACCESS ZONE LEGISLATION            | 2 clinics + injunction | 3 clinics  | ✗    | ✗    | ✓    | ✗    | ✗    | ✗    | ✗          | 8 clinics + injunction | ✓    | ✗          | ✗          |
| GESTATIONAL LIMIT (w = weeks, d = days) | 20 w                   | 24 w + 6 d | 16 w | 16 w | 16 w | 20 w | 16 w | 12 w | 19 w + 6 d | 23 w + 6 d             | 24 w | 18 w + 6 d | 12 w + 6 d |
| CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTRES                | 21                     | 26         | 7    | 7    | 0    | 0    | 6    | 2    | 0          | 77                     | 14   | 5          | 0          |

## Abortion in the United States

- Abortion is no longer a right, enshrined in law. Access to medical care differs based on where you are, the circumstances of your pregnancy, and your age.
- Services like Planned Parenthood continue to offer accurate information, available online: <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/>
- Services like AbortionFinder.org help you find resources in your area
  - You can text 'Hello' to 435-3-FINDER (along with your postcode) to receive the three provider's closest to you
    - OR: 'Hola' to 218-3-BUSCAR for service in Spanish

*There are numerous providers that will mail abortion medication to home addresses. While these medicines have been used quite safely, QM urges caution.*

[Digital Security and Privacy Tips for Those Involved in Abortion Access | Electronic Frontier Foundation](#)